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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,610	07/11/2001	Takefumi Nagata	Q65279	3881
7590	07/31/2006		EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037-3202			CORRIELUS, JEAN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2162	

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/901,610	NAGATA ET AL.	

Examiner	Art Unit	
Jean M. Corrielus	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the Request For Continued Examination (RCE) filed on April 21, 2006, in which claims 1-27 are presented for further examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 21, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 16 recite "the image database server having functions of receiving the sets of medical image data and accompanying information regarding thereto, both of which are transmitted from the client terminal via the network, storing therein the received sets of medical image data and the accompanying information that have been received". Applicant should duly note that the image database server has the functionality of receiving a set of medical image. However, the server has not yet received any image data from the client terminal. It is

Art Unit: 2162

unclear why one having ordinary skill in the art would allow the client terminal to request a desired one of the set of medical information from the image database server to retrieve when the client terminal was the one that stored the sets of medical image data into the image database server. Applicant is advised to amend the claim to provide clarification to such language in the claimed. Claim 15, recites the steps of transmitting sets of medical image data together with accompanying information to the image database server”; “transmitting a search condition”; “receiving the set of medical image data”. It is unclear how to where the medical image information and the search condition are transmitted from and who is received the medical image data.

5. Claims 1 and 16 recite the limitation "storing therein the received sets of medical image data". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teshima US Patent no. 6,272,470 in view of Sota et al (hereinafter “Sota”) US Patent no. 5,911,687.

As to claims 1, Sota discloses a management group for managing the whole information processes executed between a patient and a medical facility or between a plurality of medical facilities, wherein the medical information of each patient generated in a plurality of medical

facilities is centrally managed (col.2, lines 64-col.3, line 2). In particular, Sota discloses the claimed “client terminals installed in medical facilities and an image database server, the client terminals having ability of transmission and reception of sets of medical image data together with accompanying information regarding the sets of medical image data via a networks” as a plurality of patient terminal connected to a wide area network and at least one management server including an electronic case record (database) to store at least clinic information for patients and a doctor database to store doctors information which is connected to the database server (management server) to upload and download patient information (col.2, lines 14-25), wherein the doctor can access to the database server (management server) to upload and download the medical information or medical image about the patient (col.10, lines 18-22) “the image database server having functions of receiving the sets of medical image data and accompanying information regarding thereto, both of which are transmitting from the client terminals via the network, storing therein the received sets of medical image data and the accompanying information that have been received searching for a desired one of the sets of medical image data stored therein by using the accompanying information, and transmitting the set of medical image data” as a management server in which allows the client computer (doctor computer system) to upload and download patient information, wherein the image data of the patient is transferred to the database server (management server) (col.13, lines 45-53; col.14, lines 1-5); and “wherein, when a desired search condition is inputted from any one of the client terminal and is transmitting to the image database server, the image database server searches for the accompanying information using the desired search condition received by the image database server, if the accompanying information is successfully found, then retrieves the

medical image data regarding the accompanying information, and transmits the retrieved medical image data to the relevant client terminal” before conducting an examination scheduled by the patient, the client computer (doctor computer system) requests from the database server (management server) the medical information and data image regard a patient, when the examination is completed the client computer (doctor compute system) upload the medical information of the patient into the server database (management server) for later use (col.14, lines 25-45).

Sota *does not explicitly show* the medical data of the patient is accompanied with information regarding the set of medial data.

Sota, however, discloses that the examination result of the patient is stored in the examination result file of the patient, wherein the doctor can download patient information from the database server.

Teshima, on the other hand, discloses a system that stored patient image information in patient card, wherein a link information is produced with the image data upon writing the data image information in the database server, wherein the data image information can be access externally using the link information, wherein such image data information is associated with the patient in the patient card (col.3, 58-67; col.4, lines 45-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing, at the time the present invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references, wherein the doctor database (client database) (item 604 of Fig.6) would incorporate the use of accompanying information with a set of medical image data. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to store and transmit a set of medical image together

with accompanying information regarding the set of medical image for the purpose of preventing an incident such as leakage of personal information.

As to claim 2, Sato discloses the claimed “the image database server comparing password input from any one of the Client terminals with a password stored in advance, searching for the set of medical image data corresponding to the accompanying information input as the search condition from the client terminal if the passwords match up and transmitting the set of medical data to the client terminal” as a means of providing doctors with access privilege to access the database server (management server) (col.14, lines 25-30).

As to claim 3, Teshima discloses the claimed wherein the accompanying information includes at least a patient specification information “(col.3, 58-67; col.4, lines 45-65)

As to claims 4-6, Teshima discloses the claimed wherein the accompanying information includes a combination of facility information and patient specification information (col.3, 58-67; col.4, lines 45-65; col.6, lines 60-66).

As to claims 7-10, Teshima discloses the claimed wherein the patient specification information is encrypted by the medical facilities” patient medical image data information is encrypted in a patient card (col.5, lines 21-34).

As to claim 11, Teshima discloses the claimed “the image database server having function of receiving the sets of medical image data and the accompanying information transmitted from the client terminals via the public communications network as a means for transferring data in response to a request made by the electronic clinical recording system, storing the sets of medical image data and the accompanying information that have been received the images produced by the diagnostic medical imaging modality are transferred to the image server, searching for a desired one of the sets of medical image data stored therein by using the accompanying information, and transmitting the set of medical image data” as a system for storing patient image information in patient card, wherein a link information is produced with the image data upon writing the data image information in the database server, wherein the data image information can be access externally using the link information. Such image data information is associated with the patient in the patient card (col.3, 58-67; col.4, lines 45-65).

As to claim 12, Sato discloses the claimed the image database server comparing password input from any one of the Client terminals with a password stored in advance, searching for the set of medical image data corresponding to the accompanying information input as the search condition from the client terminal if the passwords match up” ” as a means of providing doctors with access privilege to access the database server (management server) (col.14, lines 25-30).

As to claim 13, Sato discloses the claimed “data transmitting the sets of the medical image data to the image database server via the public communication network” col.13, lines 25-65; col.14, lines 10-45; col.15, lines 20-55); “a search condition transmission means for transmitting the search condition using the image data stored in the image database server” col.13, lines 25-65; col.14, lines 10-45; col.15, lines 20-55); and “Image data reception means for receiving the set of the medical image data corresponding to the search condition” (col.8, lines 48-56; col.13, lines 25-65; col.14, lines 10-45; col.15, lines 20-55).

Sota does not explicitly show the medical data of the patient is accompanied with information regarding the set of medial data.

Sota, however, discloses that the examination result of the patient is stored in the examination result file of the patient, wherein the doctor can download patient information from the database server.

Teshima, on the other hand, discloses a system that stored the patient image information in patient card, wherein a link information is produced with the image data upon writing the data image information in the database server, wherein the data image information can be access externally using the link information. Such image data information is associated with the patient in the patient card (col.3, 58-67; col.4, lines 45-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing, at the time the present invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references, wherein the doctor database (client database) (item 604 of Fig.6) would incorporate the use of accompanying information with a set of medical image data. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to store and transmit a set of medical image together

with accompanying information regarding the set of medical image for the purpose of preventing an incident such as leakage of personal information.

As to claim 14, Sato discloses the claimed “transmitting password to the image database server” as a means of providing doctors with access privilege to access the database server (management server) (col.14, lines 25-30).

As to claim 15, Sota discloses a management group for managing the whole information processes executed between a patient and a medical facility or between a plurality of medical facilities is installed and centrally manages medical information of each patient generated in a plurality of medical facilities (col.2, lines 64-col.3, line 2). In particular, Sota discloses the claimed “transmitting sets of medical image data to an database server via a network “ by transmitting the patient medical image data into the database server (management server) via a network (col.2, lines 14-25; col.10, lines 18-22; col.13, lines 45-53; col.14, lines 1-5); and “wherein, when a desired search condition for searching for a desired one of the sets of medical data via a network” before conducting an examination scheduled by the patient, the client computer (doctor computer system) requests from the database server (management server) the medical information and data image regard a patient, when the examination is completed the client computer (doctor compute system) upload the medical information of the patient into the server database (management server) for later use (col.14, lines 25-45).

Sota does not explicitly show the medical data of the patient is accompanied with information regarding the set of medial data.

Sota, however, discloses that the examination result of the patient is stored in the examination result file of the patient, wherein the doctor can download patient information from the database server.

Teshima, on the other hand, discloses a system that stored the patient image information in patient card, wherein a link information is produced with the image data upon writing the data image information in the database server, wherein the data image information can be accessed externally using the link information. Such image data information is associated with the patient in the patient card (col.3, 58-67; col.4, lines 45-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing, at the time the present invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references, wherein the doctor database (client database) (item 604 of Fig.6) would incorporate the use of accompanying information with a set of medical image data. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to store and transmit a set of medical image together with accompanying information regarding the set of medical image for the purpose of preventing an incident such as leakage of personal information.

As to claim 16: the limitations of claim 16 have been noted in the rejection of claim 1 above. It is, therefore, rejected under the same rationale.

As to claim 17, Teshima discloses the claimed “a photographed body information” (col.16, lines 2-8); and “a photographed method information” (col.16, lines 2-8).

As to claim 18, Teshima discloses the claimed “a radiography apparatus” (col.4, lines 45-50); “a CT apparatus” (col.4, lines 45-50); and “an MR apparatus” (col.4, lines 45-50).

As to claim 19, Sato discloses the claimed “wherein a user input a password onto an input device on said client terminal, wherein said client terminal transmits said password to said image database server” as a means of providing doctors with access privilege to access the database server (management server) (col.14, lines 25-30).

As to claim 20, Teshima discloses the claimed “wherein said password comprises an account password which is used in order to pay a predetermined charge for storing and searching of the image data” as a means of providing doctors with access privilege to access the database server (management server) (col.14, lines 25-30).

As to claim 21, Teshima discloses the claimed “wherein said accompanying information is directly attached to said image data” (col.8, lines 48-col.9, line 38). Teshima discloses a system that stored the patient image information in patient card, wherein a link information is produced with the image data upon writing the data image information in the database server, wherein the data image information can be access externally using the link information. Such image data information is associated with the patient in the patient card (col.3, 58-67; col.4, lines 45-65).

As to claims 22-24, Teshima discloses the claimed “wherein the accompanying information includes a patient specification information, and at least a facility information” (col.8, lines 48-col.9, line 38). Teshima discloses a system that stored the patient image information in patient card, wherein a link information is produced with the image data upon writing the data image information in the database server, wherein the data image information can be access externally using the link information. Such image data information is associated with the patient in the patient card (col.3, 58-67; col.4, lines 45-65).

As to claims 25-26, Sato discloses the claimed wherein after a signal of a data search processing selection is transmitted from the client terminal to the image database server, the image database server transmits a password input screen to the client terminal and displays the screen on the client terminal” as a means of providing doctors with access privilege to access the database server (management server) (col.14, lines 25-30); “wherein a user enters parameters into a search field in order to obtain at least a facility information” before conducting an examination scheduled by the patient, the client computer (doctor computer system) requests from the database server (management server) the medical information and data image regard a patient, when the examination is completed the client computer (doctor compute system) upload the medical information of the patient into the server database (management server) for later use (col.14, lines 25-45).

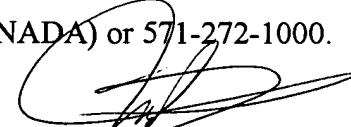
As to claim 27, Sato discloses the claimed “said medical image data comprises a photographed medical image (see items 1402 and 1403; col.10, lines 4-5).

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean M. Corrielus whose telephone number is (571) 272-4032. The examiner can normally be reached on 10 hours shift.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jean M Corrielus
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2162

July 24, 2006